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Agenda item 114 (b)
Human rights questions: Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the health of the Serb journalist Miroslav Filipovic issued on 8 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and is annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 114 (b).

(Signed) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

00-65631 (E) 280900 091000

Annex to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the health of the Serb journalist, Miroslav Filipovic, issued on 8 September 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union wishes to express its grave concern regarding the fate of Miroslav Filipovic, the Serb journalist sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a military court on 26 July 2000. At the time, the European Union strongly condemned his imprisonment, his trial and the conditions in which it was held as well as the sentence handed down. Mr. Filipovic's state of health is now giving rise to great concern in the European Union. According to our information, Mr. Filipovic, who suffers from serious heart trouble, is not receiving appropriate care. The European Union calls upon the Yugoslav authorities to take the necessary measures to ensure that the journalist receives the care his condition requires until such time as he has completely recovered. The European Union recalls its strong condemnation of the conditions in which the trial was held and of the verdict, and calls for Mr. Filipovic's release. It would point out that freedom of expression, the right and the duty to impart information freely and the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal are basic human rights laid down in a great many international texts, of which the foremost is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

United Nations A/C.3/55/3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 October 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 107
Advancement of women

Letter dated 29 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Philippine document on the meeting of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (ARIAT) (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and it annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107.

(*Signed*) Felipe **Mabilangan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

00-67525 (E) 051000

Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Meeting of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (ARIAT)

29 - 31 March 2000
Manila, Philippines

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

The Philippines and the United States of America, in their capacity as co-hosts of the Asian Regional Initiative Against Trafficking in Women and Children, called an action-oriented meeting of governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of millions of women and children being trafficked throughout the world, and particularly in the Asian Region, each year. This meeting, chaired by the Philippines, and co-chaired by the United States, followed on from other efforts, including the Manila Process, the Bangkok Declaration, and inter-governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants, among others, to attack this scourge. The following Participants and Observers, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Hong Kong China, Japan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Kingdom of Thailand, Macau China, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, People's Republic of China, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the United States of America, and the European Union, ADB, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEANOPOL, Asia Foundation, Ford Foundation, INSTRAW, INTERPOL, IOM, SEAMEO-INNOTECH, UNCICP, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNIFEM, and World Bank, and several nongovernmental organizations met in Manila on 29-3 l March 2000.

1. Participants and Observers noted with concern that trafficking in human beings can translate into violations of human rights, inhumane treatment and various forms of abuse and exploitation. The causes of trafficking are complex. While there are numerous contributing factors, the primary root cause is poverty, most particularly among women and children who may have little or no access to education, support services, or resources.

2. Participants and Observers emphasized that trafficking in persons is a transnational crime and combating this global problem will require an integrated approach at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. Countries of origin, transit and destination must work together in order to achieve significant progress, including working within established frameworks for regional cooperation. This pernicious modern-day slavery is repugnant to all nations and on that basis Participants and Observers expressed confidence that with cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination it will be possible to prevent trafficking. Where trafficking in persons has already occurred, the human rights of trafficked persons should be protected and the criminals who now traffic with impunity should be brought to justice.

3. To that end, the above noted Participants and Observers met, considered the advice of international experts and, in a series of workshops, exchanged information, engaged in dialogue, reviewed best practices, discussed and developed an Action Plan for the region. This plan offers suggestions for possible future steps and practices to fight trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in all its forms.

4. The ARIAT Action Plan contains many practical proposals to combat trafficking. The Chairperson of ARIAT urges countries in the region and other organizations to carefully examine the attached Action Plan and, in the light of their domestic legal systems and the circumstances in each country, consider appropriate implementation in their jurisdictions. Participants are encouraged to cooperate with one another and with civil society at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels in

addressing the strategic areas set out in the Action Plan, namely prevention, protection, prosecution, repatriation and reintegration.

ARIAT REGIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

OVERARCHING AREAS

Overarching Area 1: **Information and Data**

- Improve information sharing between state agencies at the local and national levels.

- Establish a data bank on trafficking including incidence rates, trafficking patterns in countries of origin, transit, and destination, and investigative information as well as number of cases prosecuted.

- Standardize statistical data on trafficking at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

- Promote exchange of information, best practices, and lessons learned among the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region and beyond.

- Develop anti-trafficking information materials for dissemination to diplomatic and consular missions in concerned countries, including information on where to seek assistance.

- Consider the development of the trafficking-specific inter/intra-net site "Trafficking of Persons Information Center" (TOPIC) and, until such time as it comes on line, the use of existing networks.

- Acknowledge the misuse of the Internet by traffickers and develop effective counter-strategies.

- Consider the importance of establishing national task forces or focal points.

Overarching Area 2: **Cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and media.**

- Promote cooperation and partnership among governments, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society in the prevention, protection, prosecution, repatriation and reintegration aspects of trafficking in persons, especially women and children

- Generate greater public awareness on the human costs of trafficking in women and children

- Provide comprehensive and immediate assistance for trafficked persons

- Sensitize major media outlets (print and electronic) to the issues and encourage them to write articles about trafficking, to publicize hotlines and services for victims, including NGO and governmental agencies.

- Promote regional cooperation particularly South-South cooperation among the countries of the region in building networks and anti-trafficking capacity.

- Ensure coordination with parallel regional initiatives to avoid duplication.

Overarching Area 3: **Gender Mainstreaming**

- Incorporate gender mainstreaming issue into national, sub-regional, regional and international plans for economic cooperation and development.

- Strengthen existing mechanisms at all levels, national, sub-regional, regional and international, to promote gender mainstreaming.

STRATEGIC AREAS FOR ACTION

PREVENTION

Strategic Area 1: **Education / Training**

- Promote education (formal, informal and non-formal)/ vocational training/ scholarship programs for children and women to minimize their susceptibility to being trafficked.

- Encourage and support training of professionals in physical and mental health and other related areas and therefore enabling them to recognize and treat trafficked persons appropriately.

- Strengthen where appropriate national/regional centers for training of law enforcement agents, caregivers and related personnel.

- Encourage a gender and child sensitive perspective in the training of law enforcement agents, prosecutors, lawyers and community leaders, among others.

Strategic Area 2: **Economic Dimension**

- Encourage existing regional economic fora to examine the relationship between economic development and trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

- Encourage greater regional cooperation for broad-based skills training and economic opportunities for women and youth who are at risk of being trafficked.

Strategic Area 3: **Legislative Framework**

- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, additional legislative and other measures to prevent trafficking including the promotion of security and integrity of travel documents.

- Provide or strengthen, where necessary, training for law enforcement, immigration, consular and other relevant partners to combat trafficking, in cooperation with appropriate national, sub-regional, regional and international organizations and non-governmental bodies.

PROTECTION

Strategic Area 1: **Human Rights/Enabling Legal Environment**

- Provide witnesses with special support to report and file complaints designed to protect their safety and to reduce official procedures and their traumatizing effects.

- Promote efforts to ensure that national laws/regulations provide sufficient and substantial information and assistance and adequate protection of the human rights of trafficked persons including in the repatriation process.

- Endeavor to forge bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international agreements against trafficking including on mutual legal assistance and cross-border cooperation.

Strategic Area 2: **Safety and Assistance of Trafficked Persons**

- Provide as appropriate, shelter and economic, psychological, medical and legal assistance for trafficked persons.

- Provide physical safety for trafficked persons and appropriate consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors including in the process of determining their status should equally be provided.

- Establish hotlines/complaint lines and establish relationships with NGOs in order to increase reporting and identify trafficking situations.

PROSECUTION

Strategic Area 1: **Rule of Law**

- Endeavor to adopt laws and measures, as may be necessary, to criminalize trafficking in persons, taking into account the grave nature of the offense.

- Examine the need for and adopt, as appropriate, laws and other legal measures to impose penalties on all aspects of trafficking, including the seizure and confiscation of gains obtained by criminal organizations.
- Endeavor to support the finalization of the elaboration of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, and call for the active participation of all countries.

Strategic Area 2: **Regional and International Cooperation**

- Support regional organizations and institutions in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons particularly in women and children.

- Encourage cooperation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels among law enforcement and immigration authorities, as well as social and

health workers of countries concerned through systematic exchange of investigative information leading to prosecution of traffickers.

- Promote national, sub-regional and regional training of relevant officials including police, judges, prosecutors, customs, immigration, border guards, as well as consular authorities.

- Endeavor to adopt suitable national, sub-regional and regional measures and forge agreements, as may be necessary, to prevent, detect and investigate trafficking across boundaries and to strengthen border controls

- Promote cooperation and partnership of governments and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

Strategic Area 1: **Repatriation and Monitoring Programs**

- Establish bilateral, multilateral, sub-regional or regional agreements related to repatriation process aimed at humanitarian assistance of the trafficked persons.

- Facilitate and accept without unreasonable delay, including the expeditious issuance of travel documents, the safe, orderly and dignified return of a national who is a trafficked person.

- Encourage countries of origin to ensure the safe and effective reintegration of trafficked persons.

- Endeavor to provide adequate programs for the reintegration of trafficked persons into their respective families and communities, including medical, legal and economic assistance.

- Ensure that legislative frameworks provide trafficked persons access to adequate procedures of redress.

FOLLOW UP AND PROGRESS REVIEW

- Ensure the full and active participation of trafficked persons, especially women and children, in the process of follow-up.

- Encourage follow up action and periodically assess the progress of implementation of the various measures in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, and repatriation and reintegration.

- Stress the significance of sub-regional, regional and international collective efforts in the implementation of this Plan particularly in making available, necessary resources and facilities towards a more comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

- Promote the participation of state and non-state actors and stakeholders in the implementation of this Plan.

- Emphasize the significant role of responsible media reporting in generating public awareness in support of this plan.

STATEMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING at

THE ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ARIAT)

Manila, March 29 to 31, 2000

We, the International Organizations participating in the ARIAT, take note of the Regional Action Plan and recommendations and commit ourselves, as possible, to bring the Plan to the attention of the governing bodies of our respective organizations; and to translate the Action Plan into concrete activities in accordance with our respective mandates and capacities.

We recognize the need for coordination of efforts to combat trafficking at the national, regional and international levels and commit ourselves to raise the relevant elements and issues of the Regional Plan for consideration, as appropriate, within the framework of ongoing regional processes such as the Manila Process, and the APC and as follow-up to the Bangkok Declaration.

We urge countries to recognize that trafficking of human beings is a human rights issue; to recognize the special vulnerabilities and needs of:

- Women;
- Children;
- Ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples; and
- Persons with disabilities

and to adhere to the provisions of relevant international human rights instruments in all aspects of addressing trafficking problems, such as CRC, CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant human rights instruments .

We stress the importance of prevention and commit ourselves to the development and support of innovative techniques and effective programs to combat human trafficking at local, national and international levels.

We will strive to support countries in their efforts to strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and procedures; to develop special measures against transnational organized criminal groups; to improve the situation of victim witnesses; and

to further cooperation in criminal justice matters with special attention to regional and sub-regions levels.

We invite the police in Asian countries to increase their information sharing in trafficking by use of the Interpol's communications system.

We recognize the need for assessment and research on the scale and nature of the trafficking problem and will seek to develop an epidemiology to make the most efficient use of scarce resources.

ARIAT Workshop Outputs

ASIAN REGIONAL INITIATIVE AGAINST THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS ESPECIALLY WOMEN and CHILDREN

March 29-31, 2000
Manila, the Philippines

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS:

Workshop One THE FOUNDATIONS OF PREVENTIVE STRATEGY: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION

Subgroup 1 -- Community-Based Monitoring and Intervention

Projects:

- Community-based monitoring and tracking of migration (with guarantees of confidentiality and based on existing systems and successful models of monitoring, e.g., HIV/AIDS, CRC, Land mines

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- Aim at promoting effective communication, increased awareness, early action and intervention
- Link to national data systems (two-way flow)
- Promote self-awareness of victims and families (breaking circles of silence/minimizing power of local recruiters).
- Target at-risk/border areas

Subgroup 2 -- Public Information

Projects:

- Research to assess the effectiveness of information and anti-trafficking campaigns
- Community-based information activities using non-traditional media

- Regional symposium to share best practices concerning anti-trafficking

- National Websites

Suggestions for the Technical Working Group (TWG)

- Public information programs, cognizant of cultural values and available infrastructure, are important and central to education.

- Commit government to provide free air time for anti-trafficking campaigns.

- Request from corporations to make available resources for the production and dissemination of anti-trafficking campaign tools.

- Sustain the ARIAT Part I through networking of participants via internet, conferences, country exchange programs

Subgroup 3 -- Innovative Education and Training

Projects:

- Skills development leading to job opportunities in the national and international markets.

- Entrepreneurship training and development.

- Community and family/parent education using innovative strategies like peer teaching, media.

- Gender sensitivity for men, women and children.

- Training of trainers / facilitators / community development workers / leaders.

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- Advocacy activities for higher resource allocation for education.

- Mobilization of non-traditional resources, private-sector, ODA, international organizations.

- Promotion of compulsory primary, secondary education.

- Promotion of community/family/parent education.

- Regional networking and cooperation, e.g., on training, curriculum development.

- Partnership with civil society at local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

Sub-Group 4-- Corporate Citizenship

Projects/Guidelines:

- Approach APEC through APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) and assert the principle of corporate responsibility and partnership in addressing the conditions which cause trafficking

- Propose to ABAC to become partners in the region by education members and through pilot programs

Sub-Group 5 -- Economic Alternatives

Project:

- National/regional integrated micro-economic projects.

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- Build the capacity of women and broaden their income-generating base through education and skills training

- Evolve greater support for self-help employment through a comprehensive micro-credit program that integrates the following elements:

    - information and education, technology
    - acquisition, credit, marketing, and networking, among others

    - get regional/international support by creating a women's fund to finance self-help initiatives

- Build the capacity of women and broaden their income-generating base through education and skills training

- Seek opportunities from the growing information technology as a source of skills and know-how to help empower women.

- Bring in support/participation of business sector

- Recognize other non-traditional forms of employment, e.g., NGO work and housework

Workshop Two -- UNSHACKLING THE VICTIMS: THE CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIETIES

Subgroup 1 -- Developing a Common Perspective: Service providers, Law enforcers, Prosecutors, Public defenders

Projects

- Develop a training program for prosecution units and other law enforcement agencies; training on the human rights of trafficked persons.

- Meeting of Ministers of justice, NGOs and government officials to discuss the impact of trafficking and immigration laws on victims rights with the view of developing a model legislation.

Suggestions/Guidelines

- Retain present provisions in the draft Action Plan additional clause.

- Recommend model domestic legislation to protect the human rights of trafficked persons.

- In this process, use human rights standards for the treatment of trafficked persons as guide for specific areas requiring protection.

- Temporary residence.

- Access to justice in origin and destination countries, i.e. legal remedies for redress, compensation, and repatriation, regardless of status.

- In draft declaration, recommend additional protection to ensure that national laws provide protection.

Subgroup 2 - Regional Cooperative Center / Network for Asia Pacific (RECAP)

Policy

- Commitments to enforce and adhere to existing standards

- Continuing dialogue on enhancement of existing policies and standards

- Dialogue on sustainable development

Operations

- Training and enhancing national capacities

- Regional exchange of information and analysis

- Research and advocacy

- Promote best practices

Structure

- Secretariat (rotating) responsible for operations

- Board responsible for policy

- Permanent Government representation

- Rotating NGO representation

- International organization representatives in advisory status

Goa

1: Coordinated Regional Action Against Trafficking in Women and Children

Recommendations/Strategies for TWG Consideration

- Use existing structures for prevention, protection, prosecution, rehabilitation, and participatory action
- Develop a Plan of Action within three (3) years.
- Consultation between member countries during first year will include consultation and input from international organizations.
- Decide on organization to be responsible for launching regional center/network

Subgroup 3 -- Training Police to Treat Victims as Potential Witnesses, Not as Criminals

Project Initiatives

- Gender-sensitivity training for law enforcers, prosecutors, immigration officers, lawyers, local community leaders and NGO representatives, on prevention, protection, investigation, prosecution and reintegration of victims of trafficking.
- Invite legislators/policy makers to a consultation agenda on awareness raising.
- Multi-lingual training coupled with material preparations. The training will be part of an integrated package-social, economical, political, etc.

Recommendations to the TWG

- Encourage a gender- and child-sensitive perspective in training of law enforcement--prosecutors, lawyers, community leaders in the field of trafficking.
- Every training program should aim at attitudinal changes besides skills building to avoid ulterior abuses of the victims (through psychological impact methodology)
- Promote internal courses at various levels (e.g. to introduce trafficking issues in curricula)

- Promote sensitivity to linguistic, cultural, religious diversity and case work methodology

- Establish and implement a support system to be maintained

- Training should be coupled with impact assessment on trainees and beyond (Regular monitoring within a specified timeframe)

Subgroup 4 -- Psycho-Social Interventions: Services Needed by Victims and Shelters

Projects/Recommendations:

- Strengthen government and NGO cooperation.

- Support and replicate existing structures/successful/effective projects/programs.
- Conduct information campaign/awareness raising initiatives

- Integrate the issue in the educational curriculum/preventive education with emphasis on core values on gender equality, respect and integrity of human beings.

- Research and documentation of survivor center programs, psychological effects and harm of trafficking, processes of healing.

- Campaigns and educational programs that address the "demand" side, e.g. male adolescence.

- Allocate more funds that support relevant projects.

- Provide training programs for the service providers/psychologists, counselors

Subgroup 5 -- Cooperation with Government Agencies

Projects/Recommendations

- Governments provide resources for NGO programs and other initiatives and make resources available across regions.

- That domestic trafficking is considered as serious as inter-country trafficking.

- That MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) between NGOs and government be drafted and/or implemented.

- Government should recognize the role of NGOs and survivor groups in developing and implementing and monitoring actions/programs.

- NGOs call for action against corruption in government and to improve service delivery.

- "Crackdowns" should always be accompanied with recuperation, reintegration programs.

- Local governments should combine with national government and local communities for protection and prevention programs and utilize local government budgets and resources.

- Develop integrated case management or multidisciplinary teams to provide services for victims.

- Central governments should develop national plans/concentrated action against criminal elements involved in trafficking.

Summary of Recommendations to Technical Working Group:

- Recognizing the importance Of existing documents and processes, such as international human rights conventions, the Bangkok Declaration, etc.

- Recognizing the importance of acknowledging cultural, linguistic and religious diversity in the region and within countries.

- Encourage development of training programs, as appropriate, for criminal justice personnel and relevant government officials at all levels;

- Encourage development of training programs for social and support services for victims of trafficking;

- Encourage development of model legislation to address the issue of trafficking, including domestic trafficking

- Encourage development of facilities for the regional exchange of information about trafficking, including best practice, national legislation and other relevant policies and programs.

- Encourage consideration of the status of trafficked victims, including where they may be able to act as witnesses to a prosecution

- Encourage consideration of the role of corruption in facilitating trafficking

- Encourage consideration of the role of local and state governments in addressing aspects of trafficking

- Encourage consideration of ways to foster cooperation between government and nongovernment organizations

- Encourage consideration of the importance of involving culturally and linguistically diverse communities in processes to address

- Encourage research into the issue of trafficking, including the effects on victims

- Encourage research into the needs of victims of trafficking, including appropriate interventions for assisting recovery and reintegration.

Workshop Three - ENFORCEMENT: DILEMMAS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Subgroup 1 -- Information Sharing

Projects:

- Each nation establish a hotline for trafficking cases

- Internet sites for general/public information

- Asian region INTERPOL branch

- ARIAT regional training centers

Suggestions:

- The TWG should adopt the following language as part of the final report of the ARIAT conference:

  ARIAT participants express their strong support for the finalization of the elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea [as mandated by the General Assembly Resolutions 53/111 and 53/114], and call for the active participation of all countries; and

  ARIAT participants request the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the United States to bring this Statement, on behalf of the participants of ARIAT, to the attention of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

- Formulate an ARIAT law enforcement information sharing and training effort.

- Use INTERPOL computer resources as an interim data-sharing tool until more trafficking-specific data systems for law enforcement (an "intranet" or otherwise secure system) can come on-line.

- Use the internet to disseminate general and information on trafficking.

Subgroup 2 -- Regional Nature of Trafficking:

Projects/Suggestions:

- Expand ASEAN Center on Combating Transnational Crime to include non-ASEAN ARIAT members;

- Databases could be built through International Organization for Migration projects;
- The Manila Process should continue;

- The International Law Enforcement Academy in Bangkok should host trafficking training ARIAT-wide, especially concentrating on source countries and using the "3 Ps" framework.

Subgroup 3 -- Enforcement and Witness Protection

Projects:

- Institutionalize "half-way houses" for medical care and psychological counseling and physical security of victims during pendancy of prosecutions

- Implement gender sensitivity and child rights training for law enforcement officers

- Adopt continuing training programs and performance evaluations for police officers, including evaluation on gender sensitivity and trafficking issues.

Suggestions:

- Provide, within international protocol, establishment of a competent national trafficking authority

- Enact laws/regulations to provide for interim detention of traffickers.

- A model law would be desirable.

- A clear definition of trafficking agreed upon internationally for consistent application domestically would provide for the establishment of equivalent criminal offences and comparable data collection.

- Witness protection mechanisms should be extended to trafficked persons.

- Endeavor to have national laws/regulations/rules of evidence to accept evidence taken abroad from trafficked persons.

- Adopt policy of non-prosecution of illegal alien victims under penal and immigration laws.
- Adopt policy of zero-tolerance for law enforcement officers involved in trafficking, whether in protecting traffickers or using prostitution

WORKSHOP FOUR -- EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE LEGISLATION: ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICES MODELS

Subgroup 1 -- Effective Legislation

- Research and documentation of survivor center programs, psychological effects and harm of trafficking, processes of healing.
- Need clear-cut, specific legislation penalizing trafficking
- Elements of such legislation
- Make more concrete ("narrow down,,) activity to be penalized in law (e.g. Hong Kong Law specifically penalizing trafficked women in prostitution)
- Establish minimum regional penalties
- Establish legal aid funds in receiving countries to assist trafficked victims
- Establish penalties for accessories and put penalty proceeds into victim funds
- Definitional differentiation trafficking from smuggling
- Educate and involve stakeholders and policy makers in broader economic development sector

Subgroup 2 -- Harmonization

- Use UN Convention to develop common themes
- Improve scope of legislation beyond "border control.~, (Belgian 45-day option]
- Consider a mechanism for temporary residence for victims to consider pressing charges.

- Centralized Data, including information about different existing laws

- MES for legislation, encompassing related activities: sex tourism, slavery

- Mechanisms for investigation of offenses: give legal tools to the law enforcers.

- Harmonize extradition procedures. A regional body should assist in implementation to:

  · arrive at a model

  · harmonize member country legislation

  · evaluate legislation

  · search for preventive strategy

  · education; information; advocacy

  · organize workshops/conferences for member states' law drafters

Subgroup 3 -- Assisting the Victims

- Develop and use technologies to assist victims in legal proceedings to minimize victim stress

- Repatriation of trafficked victims. Currently no common standards various legal regimes in the area

- Protect victims from statelessness

- Special protection for minorities who might be vulnerable in their own source country.

WORKSHOP FIVE -- REPATRIATION AND REINTEGRATION

Subgroup 1 -- Physical, Social and Psychological Services For the Rehabilitation and Integration of Victims

Projects/Initiatives:

- Home for Renewal and Recovery with a Holistic Program with provisions for psycho-social, spiritual, Medical, Legal, Educational, Vocational, and economic health, as well as special services for children, working with families, communities, and working for economic empowerment

- Networking and Referrals

- There should be an Inter-Country Network of Homes

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- On Terminology:

  · Renewal, Recovery, Reintegration is a better term than Rehabilitation.

  · Survivor - a better term than Victim.

- Data Gathering

- Directory of Homes

- Write up of Best Practices

- Information about Trafficked Children (below 12 years old)

- Programs for non-nationals and other UN resolutions and accountability to: CEDAW, Beijing + 5, icpd +5, wcsd +5, UNHCR +5 etc.

Subgroup 2 -- Economic Opportunities for Trafficking Victims

Projects/Initiatives:

- Expand micro-credit schemes link shelter, vocational, training

- Establishment of job placement network among businesses (private sector)

- Expand vocational/skills training center for victims (increase number)

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- Set up integrated projects/programs package for victims.
- Encourage private sector participation in the above projects/programs.
- Set up a "Women's Fund" for trafficked victims (Source: Private sector and donor)
- Strengthen monitoring system for the reintegration of trafficked victims.

Subgroup 3 -- Effective Justice Administration System: Necessary Elements for Reintegration

Projects/Initiatives:

- Develop standards that will encourage trafficking victims to cooperate with law enforcement authorities to ensure prosecution of traffickers
- Countries should develop mechanism for judicial remedies for trafficked victims such as through witness protection program including provision of translator during legal proceedings, legal representation and institutionalization of criminal and civil proceedings for damages against traffickers
- States/Countries of Destination should consider providing social support and giant residency permit to trafficking victims on humanitarian ground as a measure towards effective prevention of traffickers
- Create national centers for judicial and social remedies to address issues of victims, security, coordination of services, and prevention of trafficking
- Psychosocial services is an important in justice administration. Partnerships should be developed between and among governments and NGOs in the delivery of three services. Mechanisms for stronger cooperation will have to be established
- Confirmation of profits and assets of traffickers should be carried out to compensate victims
- Countries should work towards harmonization of legal regimens and the UN should lead the process of promoting

a common understanding of the issues and the necessary solutions to the problems.

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- It is important to consider that trafficking may be carried out through legal or illegal means - therefore, the illegality of movement should not be used against trafficked persons.

- It is necessary to consider that while focus is important on women and children, trafficking is something that violates the rights of human beings, thus, any effort should address trafficking as an issue facing human beings - traffic in persons.

- Safe and voluntary repatriation is an important element in the process of Reintegration, this should be considered in justice administration as well.

Subgroup 4 -- Collaborative Efforts and Reintegration Cooperation

Projects/Initiatives:

- Bilateral and sub-regional training and other programs on repatriation and reintegration to establish bilateral and sub-regional agreements.

- Exchange information and best strategies between countries of origin and destination

- develop internal training

- By 2003, conclude agreements to strengthen all aspects of repatriation and reintegration (bilateral and regional)

- Mobilize adequate resources

- Formulate/adopt programs for regional cooperation and coordination in recovery, repatriation and reintegration of trafficking victims, including for capability building to empower them to prevent re-victimization.

- Develop protocols and manuals on proper handling of cases to establish a minimum benchmark and set parameters for frontline agencies such as police/ consular and other

ethical considerations in extension of services and their exacerbation of stress and facilitate more effective crisis intervention services.

- Establish regional coordination center which will:

- have central database for info exchange and data networking;

B) design, execute and coordinate training programs for caregivers and law enforcers;

C) provide a nerve center for joint and regional operations projects.

Suggestions/Guidelines:

- By year 2003, countries of origin, transit and destination should conclude agreements, both bilateral and regional, to strengthen coordination and cooperation in all aspects of the repatriation and reintegration processes

- Mobilize adequate resources in support of projects against trafficking in women and children

- Formulate and adopt programs for bilateral and regional cooperation and coordination in the recovery, repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking, including capability building to empower them and prevent their revictimization

- Develop protocols and procedural manuals on the proper handling of trafficking cases to establish a minimum benchmark and set parameters for frontline agencies, such as the police, consular personnel and other service providers to promote professional and ethical considerations in the extension of services to trafficking victims, and thus prevent exacerbation of traumatic stress, and facilitate more effective crisis intervention services
- Establish a regional coordination center, using existing mechanisms and facilities, be they at the sub-regional and regional levels, that will:

- House the central database for information exchange and data networking

- Design and coordinate training programs for caregivers and law enforcers

- Provide a coordination or nerve center for joint or regional operations/projects

Under Section: Repatriation and Reintegration:

- Recognize state responsibilities under country of origin, destination and transit.

- Countries of destination provide special protection including temporary residence to those of ethnic minorities without rights of citizenship who are trafficked abroad.

- Bilateral cooperation on repatriation and reintegration with a view to developing regional mechanism for state cooperation.

Workshop Six -- **RAISING AWARENESS IN CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING ISSUES**

Subgroups 1 and 2 -- NGOs and International Organizations

Projects:

- Clearing house in Asia-Pacific region on trafficking on women and children.
- Strong link up between NGOs and government organizations - bottom up approaches.

- Well-moderated and distilled regional e-list on important trafficking issues for region.

- Awareness campaign done at local/national levels that address attitudinal change from "criminal" to "victims".

Suggestions:

- Do we need a formal/funded international body that focuses on trafficking within the AsiaPacific region?

Subgroup 3 -- Media

• Projects:

- Training for media practitioners, government information officers, and NGO **information** officers

- Develop and disseminate information materials regarding trafficking, (e.g. booklets, brochures, flyers, TV packages/spots, minidramas, mobile theaters, talk shows on TV/radio) and indigenous communications

- Establish an international award-giving body, which shall reward the most gender-sensitive media on national, regional and international levels.

Suggestions:

- Formulate a regional conceptual framework on trafficking in women and children specifically on the following issues, i.e. Gender power relations in feminist perspectives, sociocultural context, etc. and how the various sectors and key actors can address these issues.

- Identify general policy directions and agenda for action to be carried out by these key sectors, i.e. government, family, community, media, NGO and international organizations, private sector, academia, church, etc.

- Regional Action Plan should include financing schemes and other resource generation strategies.

Subgroup 4 -- Community and Family

Projects - Family:

- Research and study of culture and family, especially on "family values".

- Formal and informal evaluation of shaping values between males and females.

Projects - Community:

- Community watch group - involvement of community in giving information and community-based training

Suggestions:

- All plans should be family and community-based, whether political or economic, underscoring difference between female and male children (plans, policies and actions taking differing gender needs into account).

Subgroup 5 -- Government

Projects:

- It should be government policy to establish institutional mechanisms for government-NGO partnerships.

- Ensure legislation and effective enforcement of laws would help NGOs and give them successful examples for their advocacy.

- Provide government support to build up capabilities of NGOs.

Suggestions:

- Gestures of genuine political good will on the part of governments to promote commitment to combat trafficking.

- Genuine partnership between government and NGOs.

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General Assembly

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Advancement of women

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Human rights questions

Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to write to you, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, to inform you that the Islamic Group met on Monday, 2 October 2000, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and discussed the situation arising from the attempt to link Islam with violence against women, as depicted in a film recently shown at United Nations Headquarters.

The Group expressed its serious concern over the matter and adopted a statement, the text of which is enclosed (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 107, 108 and 114.

(*Signed*) **Hasmy** Agam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malaysia
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Islamic Group

00-67531 (E) 051000

Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement adopted by the Islamic Group at its meeting held at the Ambassadorial level at Untied Nations Headquarters on Monday, 2 October 2000

1. The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference expresses regret over the attempt to link the content of a film recently shown at United Nations Headquarters on the issue of crimes of honour with Islamic practices and Quranic Verses, and to single out a particular religion on the pretext of incidents that are not exclusive to Muslim communities. The Conference member States strongly feel that this portrays a vivid example of discrimination, prejudice and stereotyping of Islam which runs contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as provisions of human rights instruments.

2. It is also a matter of concern that a State Member of the United Nations has been directly involved in this event. It is also regrettable that the facilities and equipment of the United Nations were used to serve such a counterproductive purpose.

3. The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, like other States Members of the United Nations, in keeping with their obligations under the universally accepted instruments on human rights, have all committed themselves to opposing any form of arbitrary or extrajudicial killing of any human being, particularly women, in the name of passion, honour or race. Conference member States have always been in the forefront of condemning the killing of persons, especially women and girls, on any pretext, and have unreservedly raised their voices in world conferences and in other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, condemning and opposing all forms of violence against women.

4. The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference wish to reiterate that there is no linkage whatsoever between the killing of women and girls under any societal or communal banner, including in the name of passion, honour or race, and the teachings, practices and values of Islam. Throughout history, Islam has condemned such acts and has remained firmly in the vanguard of combating harmful traditional practices and prejudices that may lead to the killing and harassment of women and girls in any society.